

The Sun.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1891.

London Office of THE SUN.
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THE SUN, New York City.

McClure and Nicolay.

Col. McClure, the distinguished editor of the *Philadelphia Times*, having stated that Mr. Lincoln had consulted him upon the nomination for Vice-President in 1864, and had expressed a preference for Andrew Johnson over HANSHAM HAMLIN as a candidate for that office, Mr. JOHN G. NICOLAY, formerly a private secretary of Mr. LINCOLN, promptly retorted that the truth could not be so, because he did not know it, saying in substance with a good deal of emphasis, that Col. McClure is a liar.

There is nothing in the facts to justify such an insult to one of our most distinguished journalists. To every person who knows Col. McClure, his word is evidence sufficient to establish any fact which he may assert. It is impossible that he should be guilty of falsehood in such a case as this, or in any case; and if Mr. NICOLAY is wise, he will not long delay in offering the most ample apology for his offense.

Mr. LINCOLN was by no means a simple or transparent character; and he was far enough from the crude, glib, and mushy philanthropist which some people imagine him to have been. To inform the world that he thought it advisable to have with him on the ticket a Southern candidate for Vice-President who had formerly been a Democrat, would have been folly such as he was never known to commit. He was not only a great statesman, a great and shrewd and unflinching politician, but he was further from his character or his habits than to blurt out before the public that which prudence required to be kept in privacy. We have no doubt that Mr. NICOLAY quotes him correctly as refusing to take any open part against HAMLIN's re-nomination. He would not make unnecessarily or to any unnecessary person any declaration of the sort. Yet there has never been a doubt in the mind of every practical man who was really behind the curtain in that tremendous period, that LINCOLN looked carefully about for a man to succeed HAMLIN. Gen. BUTLER, Gen. DIX, ANDREW JOHNSON, and, we dare say, two or three others, were very earnestly considered by the President. Johnson alone united the chief requisites. He was a Southern man. He had been a Democrat. He was unquestionably on the side of the Union and had made sacrifices in serving it. He was accordingly fixed upon; and the fact that he was finally nominated is proof ample and positive that he was not only preferred by Mr. LINCOLN, but that the preference was frankly expressed to the very few from whom LINCOLN concealed nothing that bore upon the subject.

England and the Triple Alliance.

What foundation is there for the belief expressed in Paris and St. Petersburg, and declared by Mr. LINGGREN in the House of Commons, that Lord Salisbury has agreed to co-operate with the Triple Alliance in the event of war between the central powers on the one hand and France and Russia on the other? If we could review the evidence for such an apprehension, we find that it consists of three facts, each of which is capable of a reassuring interpretation, and of one vague and guarded admission on the part of a subordinate member of the Tory Ministry. The facts are that the young German Emperor has received what seems on the surface to have been a cordial welcome in London, and that a British fleet, after saluting the Hapsburg Kaiser at Flume, has made a like demonstration of good will to King Humbert on the occasion of the launching of an Italian ironclad. In connection with the statements made by the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, when questioned in Parliament, that an interchange of views had taken place between the British and Italian Governments with regard to a matter which concerns them both, to wit, the maintenance of the *status quo* in the Mediterranean.

It is plain that the exaggeration of these things may easily be exaggerated, and that none of them, taken separately, is irreconcilable with the maintenance of neutrality on the part of England in case of war upon the Continent. As for the kindly reception given to Kaiser Wilhelm II., this is due primarily, if not wholly, to the fact that he is the Queen's grandson. In other words, it is the Queen's grandson, and the traditions of government have the masses of the English people any ardent sympathy. Since by the favor of the Whig aristocracy the first GEORGE came over from Hanover, they have felt a more or less pronounced aversion for Germans, or Dutchmen as they often call them, with a droll indifference to nice ethnical distinctions. Neither have Englishmen ever shared CARLYLE's enthusiasm for the autocratic principles and processes of FRIEDRICH the Great. If the crowds in the streets cheered the Prince of Wales more loudly than they did the imperial guest, it was because at heart they prefer, after all, their own King to a King of Prussia. In one respect Mr. LABOUCHERE has gauged aright the deeper feelings of his countrymen; for there is no doubt that a war in which England should play the part of a conqueror, and a naval adjutant to the Triple Alliance would be exceedingly unpopular.

The honors paid by the British fleet in the Adriatic to the Austrian and Italian sovereigns might be accounted for without assuming the existence of an agreement on England's part to support them on the outbreak of a European war. It is from Lord SALISBURY's view-point of great importance to prevent all the great powers of the Continent, or even a majority of them, from uniting in a firm protest against England's continued occupation of Egypt. When the question was mooted by France not long ago, all the members of the Triple Alliance, and conspicuously Italy, signified an unwillingness to join in a remonstrance on the subject.

The French Government is on the point of denouncing that England shall fix a definite date for her withdrawal from the Nile country, and it is reported that the Porte is about to make the first move in the matter. If there be any ground for a rumor now said to be current on the Continent, there would be a much stronger reason for Lord SALISBURY's desire to secure the good will of Italy and Austria, whose naval armaments, although untidily inferior to the

sea power of France, would still be of undeniable weight in the Mediterranean. We refer to the rumor that a plan is now under consideration in pursuance of which the Sultan should remove from Constantinople to Bursa under a joint guarantee of all his Asiatic possessions by France and Russia, together with the Empire of Austria. Such a project should be regarded as no more visionary than it might at first sight appear. More than once in the last sixty-three years all the needed preparations have been made for an heir of the Ottoman sovereign to the old capital of his dynasty, and the permanent possession of Cairo would compensate him for his present precarious hold upon Stambul. Besides, by accepting the joint protectorate of Russia and France he would, as we pointed out the other day, be fortified against a revolt of the Arabs, which of all the perils threatening the house of OTTOMAN, may be the most formidable. The existence, however, of such a scheme is as yet merely a matter of rumor, and, until it is confirmed, no valid ground is discernible for attaching much meaning to the complimentary demonstrations of the British fleet in the Gulf of Venice.

It is not so easy to explain away the oracular utterances extorted in the House of Commons from the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. In what respect and within what limits does it concern Great Britain to maintain the *status quo* in the Mediterranean? England's interest in retaining control of the Nile country is obvious enough; but, were the alternative distinctly put, France would doubtless yield upon that point, sooner than she would upon a financial one. Great Britain placed at the disposal of her enemies. If Lord SALISBURY desires to be left in undisturbed possession of Egypt, he can gain his end more surely by an understanding with France than by committing himself to the protection of Italy against maritime attack. Can it, then, be possible that Sir James Fergusson, the representative of the Foreign Office in the House of Commons, implied by his ambiguous statement that England would deem the *status quo* in the Mediterranean affected to her disadvantage should France, in the event of a war against the central powers, occupy Sardinia and Sicily? If such was his meaning, his words were unquestionably tantamount to the avowal of a purpose to act in conjunction with the Triple Alliance, and to agree to the capabilities of France would be grievously threatened were she to be debased from seizing the great Italian islands. Still more intolerable would be the injury inflicted if English fleets should frustrate a descent on the mainland of the peninsula, thus settling free the whole Italian army for a movement on the French southeast frontier.

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The New Bishop of Massachusetts.

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It is plain that the exaggeration of these things may easily be exaggerated, and that none of them, taken separately, is irreconcilable with the maintenance of neutrality on the part of England in case of war upon the Continent. As for the kindly reception given to Kaiser Wilhelm II., this is due primarily, if not wholly, to the fact that he is the Queen's grandson. In other words, it is the Queen's grandson, and the traditions of government have the masses of the English people any ardent sympathy. Since by the favor of the Whig aristocracy the first GEORGE came over from Hanover, they have felt a more or less pronounced aversion for Germans, or Dutchmen as they often call them, with a droll indifference to nice ethnical distinctions. Neither have Englishmen ever shared CARLYLE's enthusiasm for the autocratic principles and processes of FRIEDRICH the Great. If the crowds in the streets cheered the Prince of Wales more loudly than they did the imperial guest, it was because at heart they prefer, after all, their own King to a King of Prussia. In one respect Mr. LABOUCHERE has gauged aright the deeper feelings of his countrymen; for there is no doubt that a war in which England should play the part of a conqueror, and a naval adjutant to the Triple Alliance would be exceedingly unpopular.

The honors paid by the British fleet in the Adriatic to the Austrian and Italian sovereigns might be accounted for without assuming the existence of an agreement on England's part to support them on the outbreak of a European war. It is from Lord SALISBURY's view-point of great importance to prevent all the great powers of the Continent, or even a majority of them, from uniting in a firm protest against England's continued occupation of Egypt. When the question was mooted by France not long ago, all the members of the Triple Alliance, and conspicuously Italy, signified an unwillingness to join in a remonstrance on the subject.

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A TALLAHASSEE HANGING.

Why the Assembled Witnesses Thought the Victim Must Be a Good Man.

From the *Chicago Tribune*.

TALLAHASSEE, July 8.—One wet and gloomy day brought forth a hanging, a scene of more than ordinary interest. As compared with the average Southern hangings, the penalty exacted by the law for the crime of capitalizing the throat of another negro near this city.

People of this race have a superstition that a hanging is a custom, and the weather on the occasion confirmed them in this belief. In Tallahassee, where the colored population is in the custom, it is the custom to hang a colored man in the morning. The weather on the occasion confirmed them in this belief. In Tallahassee, where the colored population is in the custom, it is the custom to hang a colored man in the morning. The weather on the occasion confirmed them in this belief.

The crowd was very large. The executioner was a white man, and the victim was a colored man. The crowd was very large. The executioner was a white man, and the victim was a colored man. The crowd was very large. The executioner was a white man, and the victim was a colored man. The crowd was very large. The executioner was a white man, and the victim was a colored man.

After reading the deed warrant the Sheriff announced that Richard wished to make some remarks. And the doomed man advanced to the gallows. "Let me have room to move about," he said to the Sheriff. "You can watch me. I won't move."

When he began to talk, it would be impossible to give any idea of his rambling speech. He talked about the weather, the crowd, and the executioner. He talked about the weather, the crowd, and the executioner. He talked about the weather, the crowd, and the executioner. He talked about the weather, the crowd, and the executioner.

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